

Oct. 16, 1863  
Mrs. Andrew Upson  
Plantsville, Conn.

*(Yellow envelope postmarked Nashville, Ten. Oct 16, with a 3-cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of lined stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.)*

Cowan, Tenn.  
Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>, 1863

My Dear Wife-

We are still without our second mail – Don't see why things should be so slow - Have not heard from you since Sep. 28<sup>th</sup> – That is as long as I was without intelligence from home when taken prisoner – We heard yesterday that there is something for us at Murfreesboro, but there is little credit attached to the story – Papers came through last night – I send you today a Nashville Daily Press – We have had very bad weather since Monday night – Rain, accompanied with wind & more or less thunder, has continued to fall & the condition of the ground you can imagine – Still we are all well & ready to welcome sunshine – Shall fix up quarters & get above the surface as soon as practicable – We have not been wet yet, but came near being unroofed night before last – Some had their shelter houses blown off (**Pg. 2**) in the midst of a hard shower – We held on to our poles & saved the concern, but did not enjoy the scene – However we laughed & made believe there was not trouble.

There is no news to communicate – I have recd. no further orders since the Col sent me into the stockade, nor has he visited us – But his attention has been fully occupied with getting his quarters fitted up & setting in motion the machinery for which he is responsible – There is some uncertainty about our remaining here – The present look is favorable to permanency – Still you know how vain it is to indulge expectations of any one thing in the army – I wrote you last week about my shirts & hat – If Capt. W. is not coming on soon, that is within a week or two, you may send me a small box by express – I want also a pair of buckskin gloves – a pair that will fit my hand & set good – You can judge pretty well for size – The gauntlet kind usually fit better than others – About straps I hardly know what to say – Shall want a pair of (**Pg. 3**) good ones for my dress coat, provided the newspaper that was recd. last week told the truth – I suppose the commission will come soon, if we ever get any more mails – You know Capts. wear two bars – I want a woven pair, not the largest size, about medium, or such as you remember is on my vest – The small bars such as I got in Washington when you were with me cost 5 or 10 cts. each – I told you about them last week – While I am on this subject guess you may get a cord also – And you can take the bugle off my old cap & put in on the hat or send it –

Since writing the above I learn there is much difficulty about matter by express & if you have already employed the mail as I directed last week very well – Perhaps we shall hear something tonight & I will write on this business further tomorrow – You need not send by express until something later than this note comes on hand – The trees here are

(10-16-1863)

now robed in the beautiful hues & tints of autumn – The mountains are just south of Cowan, in *(Pg. 4)* fact sweep around it in a grand semicircle & the view is exceedingly pleasant – We are on a plain – We can trace the cars by the smoke as they wind along by heavy grades up the ascent & finally enter the mountain & pass entirely out of sight – Watching for a few minutes we can see the smoke issue from a shaft made in the roof of the tunnel & roll up as from a great furnace – These rainy days when we have been compelled to stay inside have made me think of husking corn in the barn, with the children playing upon the stalks & once in a while wife coming up the stairs & making a short call – After all these were happy days – Would they might be renewed – You spoke about keeping Aroma – Do so if you can make him useful – You must follow your own best judgment – for I am too far off now to be of much service in the way of advice – You had better try & get those eve troughs put up on the west side of the barn – They will prevent so much water running down underneath – I think over your circumstances, but hardly know what to say – My confidence in your ability is such that it seems best to let you manage for yourself – Those children shall have a letter – Tell them father thinks every day how they used to look & act –

Yours faithfully,  
A. Upson

*(Written upside down on first page in upper margin.)*

Perhaps you had better direct my letters putting on 12th Army Corps 1<sup>st</sup> Brig. 1<sup>st</sup> Div.  
Via Nashville, Tenn.